

Relation of the Woman of the Twentieth Century to Her Club

What Does the One Do For the Other? What Do the Two Do For the Community? Co-operation Cuts a Large Figure in Club Life.

(Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

What does the woman do for her club? What does the club do for the woman? And what do the club and woman do for the community? These questions we hear frequently, sometimes in criticism, but oftener because of serious desire to know.

What the woman does for her club is a broad question. Its answer is on every hand. What the club does for the woman depends largely on her attitude toward the work, but in all cases, and in spite of attitude, there is a compelling, beneficent influence about her club interests that broadens and educates thought. "Giving mental elbow room," some one has termed it.

Then the sharing with the many, even, one instructive talk, one afternoon of music, sociability and merging of views, is of vast assistance in thought turning. When one afternoon is multiplied by many in the year, when it is considered how by clubbing interests scores of women receive at one meeting what it would take months of time to carry to separate homes, we know the club helps the woman, and hence the community, fully as much as does the woman help the club.

Take it from another viewpoint. In a certain town in Pennsylvania having a particularly progressive, enterprising and fearless set of club members it was first whispered, then shouted, "that woman's club causes more trouble, makes more mischief—in fact, it's a nuisance in the town." But the women went quietly and determinedly on in their trouble-making. Happily this trouble making was directed against the careless few whose easy laxness caused innumerable petty annoyances, much unsightliness in spots and occasional menaces to health and safety. For such as these the women's clubs was a "nuisance and mischief maker" at first. But soon the spirit of the better idea was caught and kept. Where had been carelessness in care of shops and yards and sidewalks neatness prevails, and to this added beauty. Weeds edging vacant lots were trimmed. Flower beds were planted by the shopkeepers near store entrances; trellis or hedge was placed to screen unsightly wagon sheds. Even before the shoemaker's small shop flowers bloomed, and above the doors were trained vines of quick growth; the barber shop and the bank had equally well-cared-for surroundings. Safety at the swimming place was looked after; back yards were as well cared for as front yards. Ordinances requiring that poultry be kept in inclosures were drafted. A well-ordered, "well-groomed" town, one which is the pride of its citizens and a delight to its visitors, is unquestionably the result of the "meddlesome" club's work. Property values are increased by this improved condition, and the standard of health and degree of cheerfulness are raised; a sort of buoyancy pervades and prevails. Individual vigilance and care pledge continuance.

Accomplished by Co-operation.

And how was it accomplished from the beginning? Co-operation between councils and the woman's club first; co-operation with the board of health, board of education, appeals to civic pride, suggestions to all concerned, as occasion required, whether the delivery boy, the ice man, the coal man, the vendors of vegetables. All was not done in a season or a year, but each season adds to the list of better things accomplished.

"A general turning up of the whole orchestra," one valiant worker describes it. And what is being done in this town is going on all over the country. Seeds of suggestion germinate, are more vital than we think, may be wafted by letter or the printed page as swiftly as present-day process permits from coast to coast or from the north to the south. And they take root and grow. Thus the club helps the community.

Constructive criticism, not gossip, but "small talk," in action are instruments in transforming undesirable conditions and in promoting the higher usefulness. In using these instruments, again the woman is helped by her club.

No longer is the clubwoman considered a freak, "a white blackbird." There are so many of her, shortly we may expect to find things the other way about, and this statement recalls a recent letter of confession from a newly-made clubwoman. The confession in part reads:

"The only promise my husband exacted of me just after the wedding was this, that I 'never join a women's club.' Easy to promise, because I, too, held an abhorrence. I was viewing a wholly new life, anyway, and really didn't care. While the boys were growing out of infancy, still I didn't care. Then we moved to a town where

existed a woman's club. Invitations to join came. 'No,' the answer. To shorten the long story, everything of importance that happened in the town happened at the club. I found myself missing lectures, concerts, discussions. A men's civic league was formed, meeting at the woman's club house—a community Christmas, a reconstructed Independence Day came along under the auspices of the woman's club. Both my husband and I in time became ashamed of the old promise, which was marooning me on a lonely island—but now I subscribe myself a happy clubwoman."

Now, if the clubwoman is to increase numerically in the future as in the past it is gratifying to be able to disarm anxiety as to the result by noting sections of a prize essay summarizing the value of club work as it relates to woman individually. The essay, written by Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, of Nashville, Tenn., describes how "mental selfishness results from absorption in one's own concerns."

"The obliteration of foolish class lines is a benefit conferred by club membership. Working alone and thinking alone are necessary, but applying this work and thought to the common good is the fruit of club work. In this work one learns to co-operate; to yield a point graciously, or to hold one's ground firmly should principle be at stake; to be official without being officious; to qualify by faithful work before taking leadership. Not to assume too much, not to shirk responsibility; to keep the open mind and to stifle prejudices—all are learned in this club fellowship, which develops loyalty, harmony, unselfishness, responsiveness, adaptability, altruism and enthusiasm."

No Time For Gossip.

Club work also raises women above belittling gossip. There is no time for it; there are too many big things to consider and do. It may be this very considering and doing that satisfies far more than could talking about people. Talking with people and doing things worth while constitute a lever, lifting to a plane whence surveys may be made, where the big, throbbing heart of the world may be seen, where women may see inequalities that have been made such their own inattention, their own indifference, or lack of understanding. And when comes understanding, earnestness and sincerity of purpose demand work above self-thought. It is on record where women have been restored to health from melancholia and invalidism once they are taken out of self-centering and shown the circumference of things needing attention. A higher culture, a deepened understanding come. Clubwork is a developer of talent, whether the woman have the gift of speech, the ready pen; whether she be philanthropist, artist or musician.

Music and philanthropy have become one, down in Dallas, Tex., where the clubs are practicing "musical philanthropy," as they are pleased to call it. Into the public charity institutions, the poor houses and jails the members of the music department of the women's clubs carry this refining influence, begetting happier thought in those despondent and discouraged. Answering also an actual craving of the human being, this service is of practical value. It is not trivial or unimportant and it makes people realize their human kinship. One person so cheered by this music declared in gratitude: "It is not enough to belong to the human race. You should belong to a women's club."

As was done at Wayne, it has been done in many towns where the music department of women's clubs have arranged summer band concerts. This work is unquestionably a community benefit. The clubhouses, to the number of hundreds in the country today, erected by the clubwomen, are in themselves community benefits. Their building, equipment and maintenance, accomplished wholly by women's efforts, prove that women can do things outside their home's "four walls." These same clubs, wherever they exist, are wholly self-supporting, many of them now paying dividends on the money invested. The college club, the New Century, the Philomusian, in Philadelphia, are notable examples of clubhouse keeping, as are those at Swarthmore, Lansdowne, or in almost any club center that might be named.

To accomplish the wholesome, sound financial condition of club maintenance, all departments of clubs collaborate. The home economics section give subscription luncheons, suppers or dinners; the public health departments arrange lectures or illustrated talks on needed health measures; the library extension and art departments give series of book reviews and exhibitions of choice pictures or illustrate the "old masters" in life-picture reproductions. Clubwomen are ever resourceful in raising funds to carry on their work, the Pennsylvania Federation having but recently secured more than \$5,000 toward endowing scholarships in the State College agri-

cultural department. Club work, no more than home work, runs automatically nor receives its funds, as do charitable organizations, through donation or subscription. By dint of well-managed design and effort come the means whereby the club may be run with self-respect and dignity, meeting its expenses duly and its visitors cordially. In fact, the average women's club is an example of thrift and prosperity in its community.

Committee Reports on Needs of Agricultural Industry

(Continued From Page One.)

satisfaction. Lack of proper system of marketing and distribution of our farm products is costing North Carolina farmers an annual tribute of millions of dollars.

One illustration, the marketing of eggs, will be sufficient to show the waste and duplication of service, the loss to the farmers and the loss to the consumer. Eggs that are served on the breakfast table of the leading man in the leading cities of North Carolina have frequently passed through a wonderful around-the-country trip. They have been collected by the farm wives at odd times and kept until the number was sufficient to carry them to the nearest store. From the country merchant they pass to the collector, who makes it a business to go through the country gathering eggs for the storekeepers. The collector ships the eggs in large quantities to cities like Richmond and Baltimore, where they are received by the wholesale dealers, known as commission men. The commission men then sell the eggs in large quantities to jobbers who in turn sell the eggs to the retailer, the small corner groceryman. Then our city housekeeper orders the eggs over the telephone and the groceryman delivers the eggs, which are of ancient age, to the home of the consumer; and finally the family cook stops the merry-go-round of the eggs from the hands of the farm wife, the storekeeper, the collector, the commission man, the jobber, the corner groceryman, to the city consumer. At each transfer there is loss in handling, expense for trucking, storage and margin of profit.

The same amount of unnecessary waste in more or less degree is found in handling the poultry, vegetable, fruit, peanuts and other articles of farm produce other than such staple crops as cotton and tobacco.

There is something radically wrong with the present method of marketing when the farmer of Halifax county gets \$2 a bag for peanuts, which, after taking the merry-go-round journey of the commission merchant and the jobber, finally lands in Guilford county at \$7 per bag.

It is poor encouragement to the farmer of Craven county when he can get only \$1.50 a barrel for white potatoes, which finally reach the consumer in Durham county at a price of \$4.50 per barrel.

The Buncombe county farmer is going slow in mortgaging his land for cheap money, repayable in small installments over a long period of years, in order that he may acquire sufficient capital to plant his waste farm land in apple orchards when he is compelled to sell his apples at \$1 per barrel that have to take a round-about journey through several states and several cities and finally reach the consumer of Wake county at \$6 per barrel.

We need to establish a great system of community marketing whereby the best brains and the best energies of the State are employed in bringing the producer and the consumer close together. Individual marketing by the farmer, as well as individual marketing by the consumer of the city, has proven a failure in North Carolina, as elsewhere in the world. We need a system of cooperation, or association marketing, whereby the products of the farmer are offered to the consumer in uniform quantities, thoroughly standardized and guaranteed in quality, and thoroughly suited to the requirements of the consumer. The Tar Heel farmer will then receive a fair market price for all the marketable produce that he can grow upon his farm.

Proper Organization Needed.

Proper organization of the farmers of North Carolina is greatly needed to devise the ways and means for establishing institutions that will provide long-term and short-term credit desired by the farmers, and that will institute proper systems of cooperative production and cooperative distribution.

The last census shows that about four-tenths per cent of the population of North Carolina or one person out of every two hundred and fifty was foreign born; hence it is apparent that the two and a half millions of white people in our State are about the most homogeneous body of white people on the face of the globe. There would seem to be no serious obstacles, therefore, in the way of finally organizing our white farmers along cooperative lines after they have had sufficient opportunity to learn what cooperation really means and after they have had time to acquire the true cooperative spirit.

Need of Agricultural Forward Movement.

Let us proceed on the principle that cooperation means "organized self-help"; all these needed reforms must

be brought about mainly by the farmers themselves. What the farmers can do for themselves along these lines is immensely more valuable than what well-meaning friends in the cities and subsidies from the State can do for them; but there is great need of encouraging the voluntary efforts of the farmers in these organizations by the judicious aid of the State itself, mainly along educational lines. There is an urgent need that all institutions controlled by the State, capable of rendering such services, should lend a helping hand in the launching of this great movement for the upbuilding of the State. There is need in North Carolina for a great agricultural forward movement in order that our Federal Department of Agriculture and our State Department of Agriculture and our rural public schools and our educational institutions offering courses in agricultural economy, forestry, and domestic science, can come in closer contact with, and when their usefulness to the farmers themselves.

Now that the farmers are greatly interested in the subject of cooperation, there is immediate need for a great central bureau of information with the hearty cooperation of State and National Governments where persons interested in the formation of cooperative enterprises can promptly secure all the proper legal forms and the proper system of book-keeping for the organization of such enterprises in North Carolina and to provide ample information on marketing subjects. There is also great need, even at this early stage of the movement, for the services of experts in cooperative credit, cooperative production and cooperative distribution, in order that the farmers may start their organizations on the right basis and with the best expert information that the State can afford.

Summary.

1. We find that credit costs the average North Carolina farmer eight to 20 per cent normally.
2. We believe that some form of rural credit society not dependent upon our present system of commercial banks must be evolved, based on the European models but adapted to American conditions, with the addition perhaps of certain other features of our building and loan associations. There is great need both for short-time credit and for providing money on long-time and low rate to enable worthy citizens to build houses, buy land, drain it and stock it, provide home conveniences, etc.
3. North Carolina has just adopted the Torrens System of registering land titles, a system which will greatly cheapen and facilitate agricultural credit, and which we would commend to other states.
4. At the same time our system of taxation should be reformed so as to discourage speculation in lands, stimulate homeownership, and stop taxing the farmer on the full value of a farm he has just contracted for when perhaps he has only paid for one-fourth of it.
5. Largely because of our undeveloped marketing system we find that North Carolina is importing \$50,000,000 of food or feed products which should be produced in the State.
6. One of the chief needs in providing markets for these potential products and in economical marketing or what we already produce is the proper standardization of these products.
7. We believe that the main dependence of our farmers must be self-help, but that it is the duty of the State through its agricultural agencies to educate, stimulate, and guide their efforts in these respects.
8. Our farmers need to develop a complete system of cooperation in (1) getting credit; (2) in buying supplies; (3) in buying and using machinery; (4) in converting raw products into more finished forms as in ginning cotton, grinding grain, converting cottonseed into meal and oil, milk into cream, butter and cheese, product directly to the consumer.

Respectfully submitted,

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RELEASED WITHOUT BOND.

Jane Barnes, Who Told Conflicting Stories About the Killing of Will McCullers, Goes Scot Free.

Wilson, Oct. 18.—Jane Barnes, the negro woman who has been held for the killing of Will McCullers in this city last Monday morning, had a preliminary hearing before Mayor O. P. Dickinson this morning, and there appearing no evidence as to her guilt she was set at liberty.

In the tragedy Jane admitted she killed McCullers while attempting to enter her house at two o'clock last Sunday morning. After being taken to prison she changed her tune and said she saw Luther Woodard commit the crime. Woodard's whereabouts are unknown, and the mystery is as deep as ever.